

A person is riding a bicycle on a wet, reflective road that stretches into the distance. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, illuminated from below by a low sun, creating a warm, golden glow. The road is flanked by dark green trees and bushes on the left, and a grassy field with utility poles on the right. The overall mood is serene and inspiring.

Ready. Inspire. Act.

RIA HOUSE

Annual Report 2018

Cover Photo Credit: Jason Bafle
Jason Bafle Photography
www.jasonbaflephotography.com

Design: Catherine Aldrich
www.catherinealdrich.com

A letter RIA House Executive Director

Heather Wightman

Dear RIA Community,

What a year it has been, filled with vision and possibility. The RIA House team has come together this year unlike any other. And because of that, we have gotten to know so many new women as we have more deeply walked with so many



others for a year or two or more. It is in our every day that we are reminded here at RIA how powerful **human connection** is to our sense of safety and hope. It is in these moments of connection, that we realize how a simple conversation or a quiet expression or hello hug actually make us feel better and less alone.

We know it is hard to evaluate how these moments make a difference in the longer haul of life, but in the every day work of RIA House, we see that they matter a great deal. Last year we saw time and again across our entire team, from Board

of Directors to staff team to participant women, that these little moments have made all the difference.

It was the text message that said, “I am thinking of you.”

It was seeing that you had called a few times while we were in a meeting, and then you texted, and we knew you needed something, and we called.

It was when you thought you had a ride to an appointment, but your person cancelled at the last minute and now you needed a ride...quick. We texted the team and found you a ride.

It was when you weren't understood and we sat and listened not just once but over and over again because we weren't getting it.

It was when your family member got rushed to the hospital and we sent flowers and kept checking in.

It was when we reached across the table during a coffee and gave you a big hug because we could and it made sense.

It was when you called crying and we knew to just listen and not interrupt you.

It was when it was your birthday, or 1 year anniversary or some other important moment, that we showed up, hung out, and made you smile even more.

It was all of the sharing of stories that we do with each other every day that make us feel heard and free to be our deeper selves.

Thank you, all of you for a growing year filled with so many memories of love and caring, and simply, more possibility together.

With love,
Heather

Board of Directors members

Lisa Jackson
Rev. Lucy Marshall
Co-Chairs

Rebecca Keys
Vice Chair

Drita Protopapa
Treasurer

Meghan Honigman
Secretary

Joanne Frye
Tiffany Lillie
Diane Miller

Who are we?



RIA House is an organization of women serving women

RIA House is committed to standing with women with lived experience in the sex trade as they move through the journey of their lives.

We believe each one of us is empowered to

be our own hero

in our own story. That is why we follow a model of therapeutic accompaniment and survivor mentorship. We have found there is no one-size-fits-all method.

Our approach to addressing complex trauma focuses on therapeutic conversations. Therapeutic conversations enable flexible, thoughtful, and open support in any setting to respond to the unique needs of each survivor.

RIA House's highly trained team is composed of survivor professionals, social workers, and mental health clinicians. We are well-positioned to expand our team in the next year, improve staff employment benefits, and enhance participant services to work towards our shared mission of

ending exploitation and violence against all people.



Why we journey together

We journey together because women who have experiences of exploitation, trafficking, and prostitution are affected in multiple and profound ways, and often have had unique service provider experiences that have caused them to be mis-trusting of others.

This knowledge informs our approach by adhering to three core principles:

1

SURVIVOR INFORMED

Everything we do is survivor-informed and women-led. Survivors provide perspective and guidance on all aspects of our work.

2

TRAUMA FOCUSED CLINICAL PERSPECTIVE

We provide a primary and consistent staff contact, enabling women to build trusting relationships.

3

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Staff meet women where they are, recognizing that growth and change will best occur when initiated by a woman herself, rather than having a plan imposed on her.

What We Offer

Women who come to RIA House are offered a range of services including emotional and safety support, information and referral, personal advocacy, mentorship, clinical therapy, and case management. RIA also provides peer support groups and access to a caring and informed community.



Emotional/Safety Support



Information/Referrals



Personal & Legal Advocacy



Survivor Mentorship



Clinical Therapy



Case Management
& Housing

Stronger Together

Sexual exploitation and trafficking rely on isolation. Cycles of addiction, abuse, exploitation, poverty, and prostitution push women away from communities of support. RIA believes that breaking the isolation happens when we stand together. Which is why we travel miles, talk for hours, and go go go to ensure women know they are not on this road alone.

“

You helped me find my own safe space in a world that felt like a massive war.”

“

Sisters in arms.”

RIA's like an airdrop that drops in with support that's needed in the moment.

“

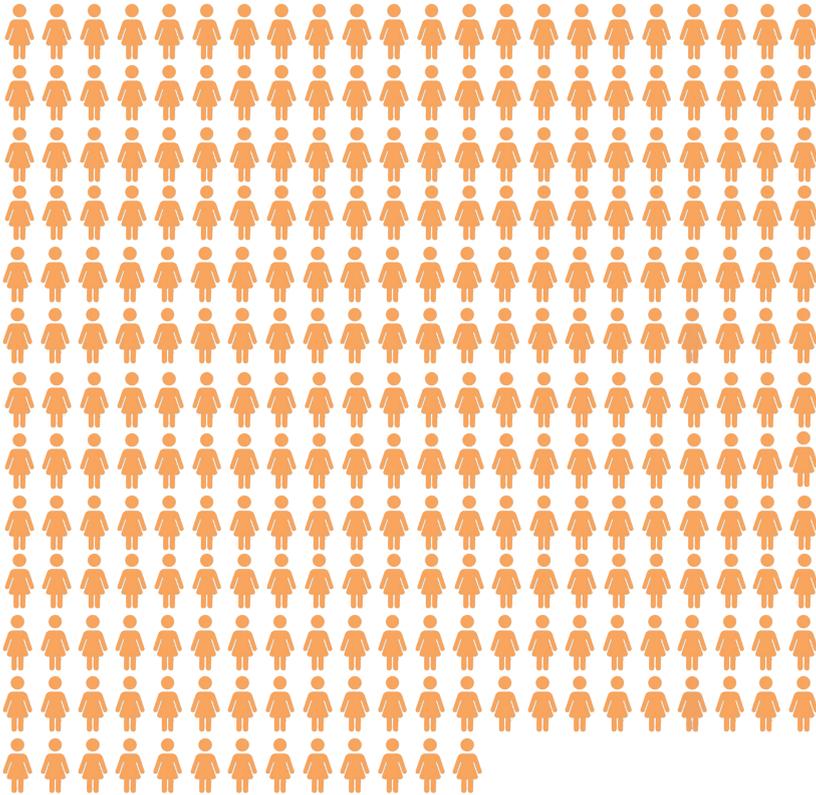
RIA is someone who cares enough to know where I am.”

You are a safe space that comes to us.



Accompaniment is Key

Our Impact in 2018



We break the cycle of exploitation by offering touchpoints that remind women they are not alone.

**In 2018
RIA staff saw**

277

unique participants, offering peer mentorship, counseling, groups in recovery homes and in prison, legal and medical advocacy, & case management.

Touchpoints Towards Change

One staff member in one month saw the following



24

Women throughout the month

Touchpoints including text, phone, in person meetings & groups in the prison

83

**Total
RIA staff
encounters**

461

**TEXT
CONVERSATIONS**

618

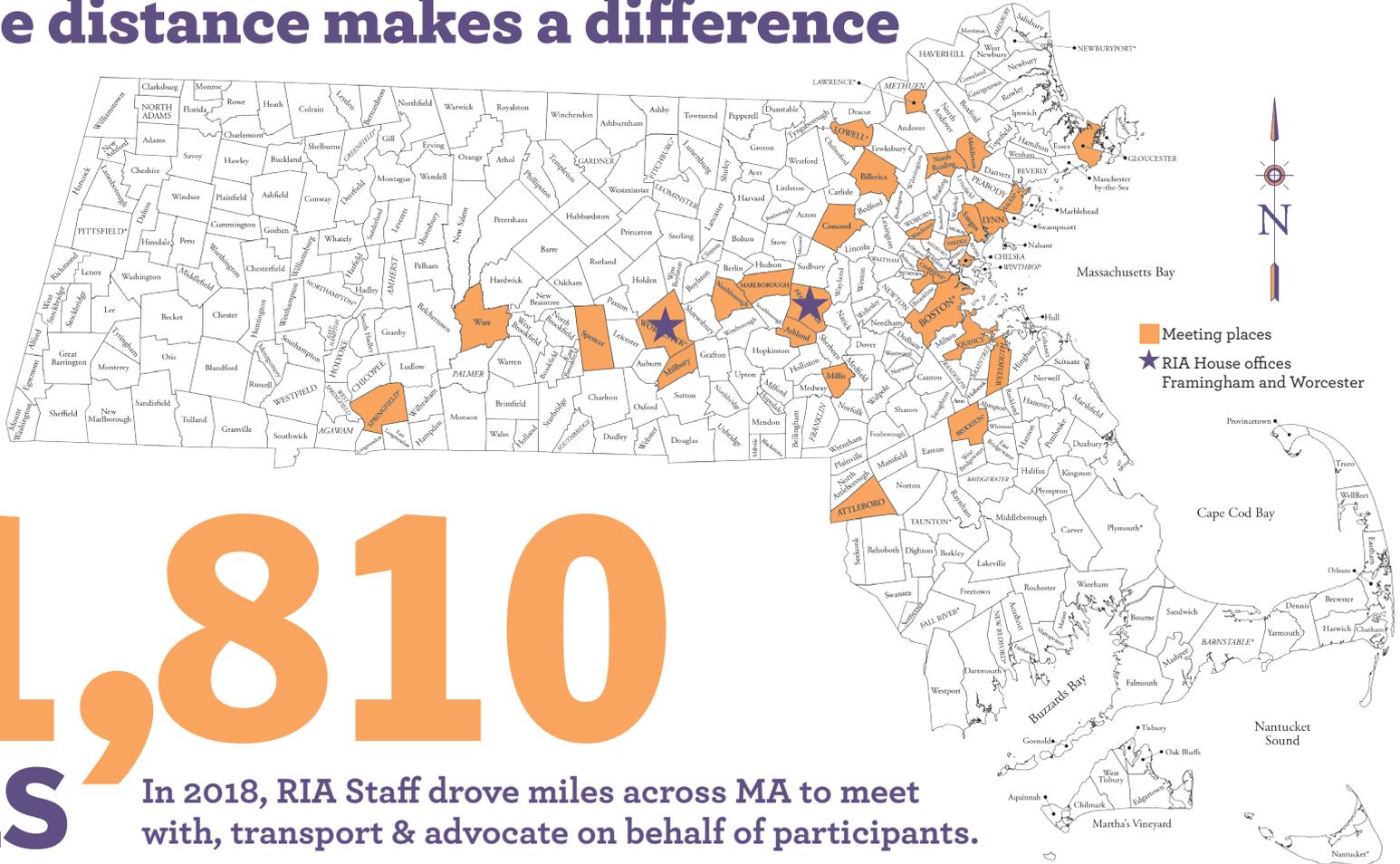
**PHONE
CALLS MADE**

1682

**IN PERSON
CONTACT**

Going the distance makes a difference

We go
the
distance
because
she
matters.



21,810 MILES

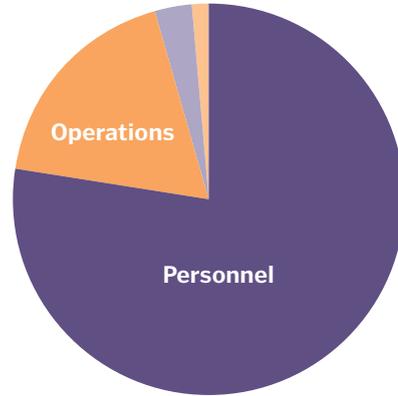
In 2018, RIA Staff drove miles across MA to meet with, transport & advocate on behalf of participants.

Where we've been

2018 Financials

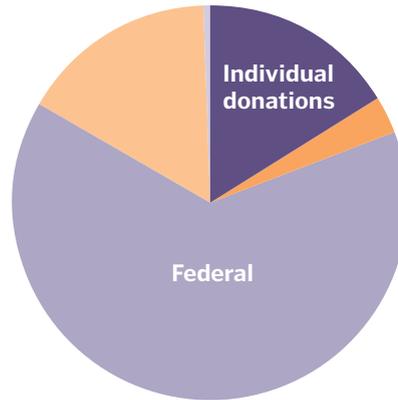
Expenses

| | |
|--|------------------|
| ■ Personnel | \$216,399 |
| ■ Operations | \$50,722 |
| ■ General & Admin | \$8,375 |
| ■ Other including Fundraising and Justice Enterprise | \$3,467 |
| Total Expenses | \$278,945 |



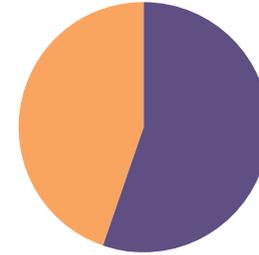
Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| ■ Individual Donations | \$46,887 |
| ■ Events and Training | \$8,565 |
| ■ Federal | \$184,833 |
| ■ Private and Corp. Foundations | \$45,674 |
| ■ Justice Enterprise | \$1,426 |
| Total Income | \$287,385 |



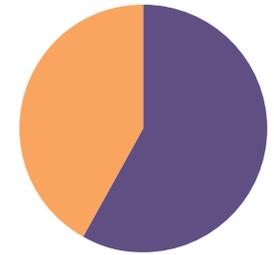
Net Income \$7,441

Previous Years' Financials



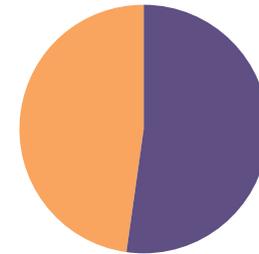
2017

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Revenue | \$192,257 |
| ■ Expenses | \$154,602 |
| Net Income | \$37,655 |



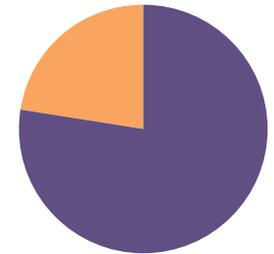
2016

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Revenue | \$122,337 |
| ■ Expenses | \$87,659 |
| Net Income | \$34,678 |



2015

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| ■ Revenue | \$55,569 |
| ■ Expenses | \$50,802 |
| Net Income | \$4,767 |



2014

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Revenue | \$41,300 |
| ■ Expenses | \$11,990 |
| Net Income | \$29,310 |

Where We're Headed

RIA House, INC. is positioned for increased service growth in the next year. We hope to increase staff/service/programming by addressing employment through our deodorant business and transitional housing in 2019.



We also plan to grow our clinical training program and survivor fellowship program.

10

In the last 5 months of 2018, we conducted 10 new intakes for one to one Peer Mentorship & Clinical Counseling Services.

154

154 new women attended our community based groups led by our Group Specialist.

35

35 new women participated in services at the South Middlesex Correctional Center through our Peer Mentor led group and through individual weekly check-ins.

Women served



Going the Distance Together- **Thank you!**

We couldn't do any of this work alone. Thank you to our community partners, financial contributors, & volunteers whose faithful support makes this work possible!

Financial Contributors: Cummings Foundation, First Parish Church of Concord, First Parish Church of Stow & Acton, Foundation of MetroWest, Fred H. Daniels Foundation, Lincoln & Therese Filene Foundation, MAPA Translations, MetroWest Health Foundation, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice VAWA, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance & Office for Victims of Crime, Shaw's Foundation, The 200 Foundation, Wellesley Congregational Church, Womenade...and dozens of individual donors, staff, & board of directors.

In Kind Contributions: Algorithm Marketing, Payroll Manager, Social Work Interns, & our many volunteers who helped with Administration, event planning, and more.

Collaborative Partners: Amilia's Light, Amirah, Bakhita House Ministries, BU School of Social Work, Framingham Police Department, Natick Police Department, Department of Homeland Security, HEAL Trafficking, Highpoint, Lawyers Clearinghouse, Linda Faye House, Massachusetts Coalition to End Human Trafficking, MetroWest Legal Services, My Life My Choice, Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, New Life Home Refurnishing, Rhodes House, Serenity House, Shadows, SMOC, MA State Police, YOU Inc., Wayside Youth & Family Services, Wesley United Methodist Church, William James College.



**Move forward
with us!**

GIVE: Become a RIA monthly member and make a BIG impact on one woman's journey towards change. Want to learn more about RIA memberships? Text **SHEMATTERS to 44321** to read more and give today. You can also go to our website at <http://www.riahouse.org/donate.html> for more information and donation links.

LEARN: RIA also offers trainings and speaking engagements across Massachusetts, for more information or to book a training contact us at beth@riahouse.org

JOIN: To hear more about how to become a RIA volunteer, board member, or to receive services contact us at info@riahouse.org. Or check out our website at www.riahouse.org

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